

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS EUROPE'S ENERGY NEEDS

1. DURING ITS APRIL 18-22 SESSION IN STRASBOURG, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS SEVERAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY AND EUROPE'S POWER REQUIREMENTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS BY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS TO THE EC COMMISSION.

A. PARLIAMENT'S SOCIALIST GROUP (PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY GERMAN AND BRITISH MP'S) HAS ASKED WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE ON COMMUNITY POWER SUPPLIES IF, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT JUDGMENT OF FREIBURG COURT BANNING CONSTRUCTION OF LIGHT-WATER REACTOR AT WYHL, GERMANY, OTHER SUCH LIGHT-WATER REACTORS WERE BANNED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY. QUESTIONERS ALSO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES--INCLUDING OTHER KINDS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS WHICH MIGHT BE SAFER THAN WHYL-TYPE--AND WHETHER A BAN ON LIGHT-WATER REACTORS WOULD INCREASE COMMUNITY'S DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE POWER SOURCES.

B. DALYELL, (UK, SOCIALIST GROUP, AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S ENERGY COMMITTEE) HAS ASKED ABOUT INTERRUPTION IN SUPPLIES OF US UNCLASSIFIED

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AND CANADIAN NUCLEAR FUELS TO THE COMMUNITY--WHAT CONDITIONS THE SUPPLIER COUNTRIES HAVE SET BEFORE MAKING FURTHER DELIVERIES, WHAT THE COMMISSION IS DOING TO SEE THAT SUPPLIES ARE RESUMED, AND WHAT MEASURES THE COMMUNITY MIGHT ADOPT TO INCREASE ITS OWN PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

C. JAHN (GERMANY, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT) HAS ASKED, ON BEHALF OF

PARLIAMENT'S ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, FOR INFORMATION ON: THE EXTENT TO WHICH PRESENT POWER STATIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES MEET ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION STANDARDS; THE COMMISSION'S ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF POLLUTION AND HEALTH HAZARDS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM NEW POWER STATIONS OPERATING ON COAL, OIL, AND NUCLEAR ENERGY RESPECTIVELY; AND STEPS BEING TAKEN TOWARD THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF WASTE FROM NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.

2. THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS WILL SERVE AS THE SPRINGBOARD FOR WHAT COULD BE A FAIRLY SEARCHING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE NEXT WEEK ON COMMUNITY ENERGY NEEDS AND ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF MEETING THEM. WE ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN THIS PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENT ON US NUCLEAR POWER POLICY. JOHNSTON

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